

King George VI - Festival of Britain issue.

The **Festival of Britain** was a national exhibition held in 1951 to celebrate the nation's achievements in the **Arts, Industry and Science**. Although the main event was held on London's South Bank from 4th May to 30th September, other events were held all over the country. At that time, shortly after the end of World War II, many of our major towns and cities were in ruins and regeneration was badly needed. It should be remembered that in 1951 rationing was still part of everyday life. In fact, it was not until 3rd July 1954 that meat was de-rationed, ending all food rationing in Britain. The Festival, marking the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851, was officially opened on 3rd May 1951, and open to the public the next day.

To coincide with the festival, a complete range of postage stamps was envisaged, but in the event the General Post Office commissioned two commemorative stamps, the 2½d and 3d, to celebrate the Festival, a new series of four high value stamps {2/6d, 5/-, 10/-, and £1}, and five low value definitives issued in different colours {½d to 2½d}.

Twelve artists were invited to submit designs for the two proposed commemoratives. This produced some twenty-six designs, to which was added a design by Edmund Dulac who had been severely ill in hospital. His design was subsequently chosen for the 2½d value. In July 1950 it was decided to change the 3d value to 4d to cater for the forthcoming increase in the minimum overseas postage rate.



Unsuccessful design submitted by George Bellew.

© Stamp Design Royal Mail Group Ltd (2014)

Chosen designs:

- **Edmund Dulac** - 2½d '*Commerce and Prosperity*'.
- **Abram Games** - 4d '*Festival Symbol*'. He also designed the official Exhibition symbol.

Printing details: Printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, in sheets of 120 stamps, arranged in 20 rows of six stamps.

Issued date - 3rd May 1951.

Quantities sold - figures are shown above each stamp.

2½d - 260,141,520



131 dies



4d - 22,196,880



60 dies

The following table lists all known Perfin dies found on the '*Festival of Britain*' issue of King George VI.

	Catalogue Number	Letters	2½d SG513	4d SG514
1	A0190.01M	AA/CoLd	2½d	
2	A0580.01M	A.B/C.L		4d
3	A0830.01M	A/Bros	2½d	4d
4	A2150.01	A&E/TCL		4d
5	A2720.02M	A.H	2½d	4d
6	A2900.01	A.H/&/S	2½d	
7	A4250.01	AN/Ltd..		4d
8	A4930.05a	A.S.	2½d	
9	A5090.01M	A.S./H.	2½d	
10	A5780.01	A.W/E.B	2½d	
11	A5800.02M	AWG		4d
12	B0013.10	B		4d
13	B0230.04	BASS	2½d	
14	B1110.05M	BC	2½d	
15	B1130.04	B.C	2½d	
16	B1150.02	B.C.	2½d	
17	B1200.02M	BC/BC	2½d	
18	B2640.01	BFA		4d
19	B2650.01	B.F.B		4d
20	B3030.01M	B.G/Co		4d
21	B3310.01	B/HC	2½d	
22	B4190.01M	B.L./B.	2½d	4d
23	B4580.01M	BL/W	2½d	
24	B4890.01	BM/I		4d
25	B6430.06M	B&S		4d
26	B7100.01	BT/C	2½d	
27	B7180.02M	B/TH		4d
28	B7820.02	BWW	2½d	
29	C0010.07	C	2½d	
30	C0013.01M	C	2½d	4d
31	C0070.01M	C.A.	2½d	4d
32	C0460.01M	CB		4d
33	C1250.02M	CC/C	2½d	
34	C1380.03	CC/L	2½d	4d
35	C3030.01M	C.H.	2½d	
36	C5760.01M	CP	2½d	4d
37	C5770.03M	C.P		4d
38	C5840.02M	CPA	2½d	
39	C6800.09M	C&S	2½d	
40	C7280.01M	CSS/CoLd	2½d	
41	C8280.02M	C.W.	2½d	
42	C8280.03	C.W.	2½d	
43	D0210.06	DB	2½d	

	Catalogue Number	Letters	2½d SG513	4d SG514
44	D0290.01	D&B/B		4d
45	D0580.02	D.C.	2½d	
46	D0740.02	D.C/H.C	2½d	
47	D1340.01M	D.D.D/Co.	2½d	
48	D2080.03	D&G	2½d	
49	D2510.01M	D&I/WE	2½d	
50	D3310.01	DMS		4d
51	D4085.01a	D.R/C.L	2½d	
52	D4120.02	DR/Co	2½d	
53	D4120.04	DR/Co	2½d	
54	D4130.01	D.R/Co	2½d	
55	D4130.03	D.R/Co	2½d	
56	E0270.02M	E.B	2½d	
57	E2760.05	ELW	2½d	
58	E3110.01M	EMW	2½d	
59	E4170.02b	ES/&/AR	2½d	
60	E4960.02M	EW		4d
61	F0620.01M	F+C.F+C	2½d	
62	F1590.01M	F.G	2½d	
63	F1770.01	F.H	2½d	
64	F2460.01M	FLd	2½d	4d
65	F2517.01	F.Ltd.	2½d	
66	G1540.01M	GE/C	2½d	4d
67	G3465.01m	GMS mono	2½d	
68	G5530.01	G.W.E.	2½d	
69	H0012.11	H	2½d	4d
70	H0280.01	HAW		4d
71	H0690.01	H.B/L		4d
72	H0730.02	H&B/Ld	2½d	
73	H1240.01M	HC/B	2½d	
74	H1490.01	H&Co.	2½d	
75	H1530.03M	H/&Co	2½d	
76	H2980.01	H&/GS	2½d	
77	H3110.05a	HH	2½d	4d
78	H4420.01M	H./L.	2½d	4d
79	H5200.01M	HM/SO		4d
80	H5520.01	H/(O)/Ltd	2½d	
81	H6350.06	H&S	2½d	
82	H6750.01M	H&S/Ltd..	2½d	
83	I1510.01M	IL		4d
84	J0695.01M	JB/Co.Ld.	2½d	
85	J1590.02M	J&Co.		4d
86	J2270.02M	JDW/M	2½d	
87	J2270.03M	JDW/M	2½d	4d
88	J2880.01	JFS/T	2½d	
89	J3190.01	J.G.N	2½d	

	Catalogue Number	Letters	2½d SG513	4d SG514
90	J5040.01	J.L./&S.	2½d	4d
91	J5230.01	J.M.	2½d	
92	J7160.01	J/SMITH	2½d	
93	J8280.01	J.W	2½d	
94	K0009.01M	K		4d
95	K0110.01M	K.B/B		4d
96	K0320.01M	KC/H	2½d	
97	K0710.01	KESSLER	2½d	
98	K1370.01M	K.M./&Co./M	2½d	
99	L1350.01	L.C./W.W.	2½d	
100	L1930.01	L.E./&P.	2½d	
101	L3180.01	LINE	2½d	4d
102	L3410.01M	LL	2½d	4d
103	L4140.01M	LN/E	2½d	
104	L4360.01b	LP	2½d	4d
105	L4360.01d	LP	2½d	
106	L4590.01M	LP/TN		4d
107	L4880.01	L.S.	2½d	
108	M0011.01M	M		4d
109	M1020.03	M.C	2½d	
110	M2320.01M	M.E/&Co..	2½d	
111	M3620.01	M.L	2½d	
112	M4740.01	MR/CP		4d
113	M5860.01M	M.V/Co.	2½d	4d
114	M6030.01M	MW/Co.	2½d	4d
115	N0011.02M	N	2½d	
116	N0240.01m	NB mono	2½d	
117	N1660.01	N.H/C		4d
118	N2750.02	NR/C	2½d	4d
119	P0160.01	PAGE	2½d	4d
120	P0210.01M	PAL/L	2½d	
121	P2610.02M	PJ	2½d	4d
122	P3500.04	P&O/Co.		4d
123	P3840.02	PR/DC	2½d	
124	P5230.02M	P/W8		4d
125	R0012.10M	R	2½d	
126	R0031.01	R		4d
127	R0475.04	R.B/&Co.	2½d	
128	R1110.01M	RCo/Y		4d
129	R1660.01M	RE/WR	2½d	
130	R2850.01	R.I.E.	2½d	
131	R4625.01	RS&C/Ltd..	2½d	
132	R4650.01	RS/&Co.	2½d	
133	R4830.04M	R&S/Ld	2½d	4d
134	S0090.01bmM	S on A	2½d	
135	S1210.01M	SC	2½d	

	Catalogue Number	Letters	2½d SG513	4d SG514
136	S1210.04M	SC	2½d	
137	S1230.02	S.C.	2½d	
138	S1810.03M	SCW/SLd	2½d	
139	S2350.01M	S\&E		4d
140	S2550.01	S.E./H.	2½d	
141	S3060.03BM	SG		4d
142	S3780.01M	S.I.C.	2½d	
143	S5890.01	SPERO		4d
144	S6490.01M	S.S/C	2½d	
145	T0150.02	TA/&Co		4d
146	T0370.01M	T.B.B.	2½d	
147	T1880.01	TG/Co	2½d	
148	T3910.02M	TR&S/R	2½d	
149	T4040.03	T&S	2½d	
150	T4500.02	T.T./&Co.	2½d	4d
151	T5110.01	TWL	2½d	
152	T5130.01	TW/MC	2½d	
153	T5220.01	TWW	2½d	
154	U0420.02aM	U..C/Co	2½d	
155	U1170.01M	U.L	2½d	
156	W0430.02AM	W.B.	2½d	
157	W1250.01	W.C./Ld.	2½d	
158	W1590.01	W.C./&S./Ld.	2½d	
159	W2300.01M	WE/L	2½d	
160	W5160.03b	WM	2½d	
161	W5400.01M	W.M./M.	2½d	4d
162	W5480.01	WM/UDC	2½d	
163	W5860.04M	WP	2½d	
164	W6680.17	W&S	2½d	
165	W6780.01M	WS/CC	2½d	
166	#0110.01	129	2½d	

Three Perfin covers have been reported.

- “CC/C” used by the ‘Carron Company’, postmarked Falkirk, 16th May 1951.
- “SG” used by Société Générale.
- “U..C/C” used by the ‘United-Castle’ Mail Steamship Co, postmarked Southampton, 5th July 1951.

The list is correct to *1st January 2019*.

Any additional information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Please forward any new details to:

Roy Gault (Catalogue Editor - contact details as in the Bulletin),
or via e-Mail to Alastair Walter (Webmaster) at perfinsoc@gmail.com